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Revenue (1948) Department.

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[Despatch Abstract.]

Prohibition - Working during October 1947 - Report of the Board of Revenue Recorded.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC (INFORMATION & PUBLICITY) DEPARTMENT

PRESS NOTE NO. 300, FORT ST. GEORGE DATED 19.12.1947.

The following report on the working of Prohibition during October 1947 in the 16 districts where it is now in force, is published for information.

The first day of October 1947 marked the end of the 1st year of the working of the Prohibition Act in the 1st batch of the 8 districts, viz., Anantapur, Bellary, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Salem, Coimbatore, North Arcot and Chittoor and the extension of prohibition tothe second batch of 8 districts, viz., Guntur, Nellore, the Nilgiris, South Kanara, Malabar, Tanjore, Trichinopoly and Madura. Each of the eight new prohibition districts was visited by an Hon'ble Minister on the inauguration day. Popular enthusiasm was evinced in very great measure in favour of Prohibition. Processions were taken out and speeches were made pointing out the beneficial effects of prohibition.

I. ENFORCEMENT.

Agency for enforcement:- The enforcement of the Act was entrusted to the Police in the new districts of Tanjore, Trichinopoly, and Madura and to the Prohibition Department in the districts of Guntur, Nellore, the Nilgiris, South Kanara and Malabar.

Cases detected:- The total number of cases detected in the 8 old districts during October 1947 was 2,738 as against 2,708 in September. The total number of cases detected in the new eight districts was only 658. The low number of cases detected in those new districts may be due either to the absence of any wide-spread efforts to violate the prohibition laws immediately after the introduction or to the lack of time on the part of the prohibition staff to start an organized drive against prohibition offences in view of their having taken up their stations recently:

The number of cases of smuggling of liquor into the dry area decreased from 76 to 64 in the old Prohibition districts. In the new Prohibition districts 9 cases of smuggling liquor into Malabar, 18 into Trichinopoly, 4 into South Kanara and 1 into Tanjore were reported. The smuggling was mainly from the neighbouring Indian states and French Establishments. The preventive staff have been instructed to keep a vigilant eye on the borders to prevent smuggling.

The number of cases relating intoxicating drugs in the old Prohibition districts decreased from 187 to 170. The number in the new districts was 190, of which 166 related to unlicensed possession.

Assistance by officials of other departments and non-officials:-

The work of the village officers in North Arcot and Salem districts was good. The Taluk and village Prohibition Committees in Salem and Kurnool districts also did good work. In the other old Prohibition districts the Committees have not done much. They did nothing at all in Bellary and Coimbatore. The Board of Revenue has issued instructions to the Collectors to have these Committees re-organized by the inclusion of enthusiastic persons. Better results may be hoped for after reorganization. In the new Prohibition districts the Village and Taluk Committees were in the process of formation during the month:

General:- In the new Prohibition districts a good start in detection of crime was made in Trichinopoly and Madura districts. In Tanjore district illicit distillation was unknown in pre-prohibition days and the enforcement of Prohibition will not present serious difficulty. The preventive operations in Guntur, Nellore, the Nilgiris Malabar and South Kanara cannot be said to have come upto expectations. In the old Prohibition districts the enforcement work during the month

was satisfactory.

AMELIORATIVE WORK.

Substitutes for drink:- The Government had sanctioned an allotment of Rs. 100 for each shop for the provision of refreshment stalls in the place of 1900 of the more important drink shops in the new Prohibition districts. Instructions were issued for the provision of refreshments to the ex-addicts at these stalls for a maximum period of three months from the date of inauguration of Prohibition. In the old districts the refreshment stalls which were being run by private persons continued to be popular and their stalls are reported to be increasing.

Rural recreation:- The 73 Rural Recreation Officers who were working in the 15 Prohibition districts except the Nilgiris during the month visited 1,735 villages and organised rural games in 927 villages. 41 Firka tournaments and 12 Taluk tournaments were also held, during the month. The figures for the Nilgiris district are not available.

Bhajanas, Harikathas and Kalakshepams, etc:- Bjajanas, Harikathas or Kalakshepams were held in 1450 villages. Folk dances or cinema shows were held in 414 villages at the instance of the Development Officers. Performances were given by local dramatic troupes in the districts of Chittoor, Anantapur, Kurnool, Bellary, Cuddapah, South Kanara, North Arcot and Trichinopoly.

Ballad Singers:- The 57 ballad singers who were working during the month visited 557 villages and organised community singing in 159 villages. 1266 villagers were trained in community singing.

Propaganda vans:- The propaganda vans in the districts of Salem, Cuddapah, Anantapur, North Arcot, Coimbatore, Bellary, Tanjore, Madura, and South Kanara visited 7,15,24,2,33,16,8,38 and 6 villages respectively. The vans in Trichinopoly, Nellore, Guntur, Kurnool and Anantapur were not in good condition.

Gramasangams:- 324 gramasangams, 15 firka associations and 10 taluk associations were formed during the month bringing the total number formed till the end of the month to 7328 gramasangams, 212 firka associations and 56 taluk associations. The Gramasangams attended to various beneficial activities.

Rural Uplift Schools:- The fourth rural uplift school was opened in each of the districts of Salem, Cuddapah during the month.

Thrift:-A total of Rs. 14,907 was saved during the month in Hundi boxes and the total amount upto the end of the month was Rs. 113845.

Uplift of women:- The Indian Women Civic Corps branches at Salem, Coimbatore and Arkonam carried on propaganda among women.

Employment of ex-tappers:-The number of ex-tappers who were thrown out of employment in the new eight prohibition districts is as follows:-

South Kanara.	15,000.
Malabar.	28,489.
Trichinopoly.	1,791.
Nellore.	2,465.
Tanjore.	4,555.
Madura.	1,700.
The Nilgiris.	...
Guntur.	2,930.

In South Kanara district 13 Co-operative Societies for palmyrah jaggery manufacture were organized of which 4 were registered. 900 licences were issued. The Government have also since sanctioned the

organization of Co-operative Societies for the manufacture of Cocoanut jaggery in Selected Centres. It is proposed to organize ⅋ 40 more societies, and nearly 8000 tappers will be absorbed in the preparation of jaggery. It is also proposed to organise land colonisation societies, and coir making societies in Puthur, Mangalore, Udipi and Kasaragod taluks. In Malabar district the problems of finding employment to ex-tappers presented itself in a rather acute form. 19 Co.operative Societies for the manufacture of palmyrah jaggery were organised and registered. Of these 10 have since started work. About 800 licences were issued to ex-tappers to draw sweet juice from Palmyrah trees. The Government have also since sanctioned the formation of cocoanut jaggery Co-operative Societies in selected centres.

In Trichinopoly district some of the ex-tappers have taken to house building, and a majority of them are expected to take to agriculture. In Nellore and Tanjore districts some of the ex-tappers have found employment in agricultural operations. The problems of unemployment was not acute in Madura district. In Guntur district most of the ex-tappers owned lands.

BENEFICIAL EFFECTS OF PROHIBITION.

The reports received from the Collectors and Special Development Officers of the old districts indicate that there has been a general improvement in the social and economic condition of the ex-addicts. The poorer classes are reported to be drawing their rations in full. They are better fed, better clothed and appear cheerful. It is reported that most of them are utilising their savings in purchasing lands, domestic articles, jewels for their wives and children, and in construction of houses and clearance of old debts. It is too soon to expect any perceptible improvement in the condition of the ex-addicts in the new 8 districts where prohibition was introduced on 1.10.1947.

C.V. Hanumantha Rao,
Director of Information and Publicity.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
Abstract.

Prohibition - Working during October 1947 - Report of the Board of Revenue - Recorded.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. Ms. No. 183. Dated the 28th January 1948.
Read:-
From the Board of Revenue, C.R.No. 36699/Abk/47/XF1. dated 2.12.1947.

Order:-
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(By Order of His Excellency the Governor).

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To
The Board of Revenue (Excise).

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/True copy/

Office Assistant,
Madras Record Office